

It's disturbing to me that special interest groups exist to defend the rights of sex offenders. It shouldn't surprise anyone that the California Coalition on Sexual Offending, a sex offender special interest group, objects to those who support Jessica's Law and the protection it will afford our children.

Niki Delson, Chairwoman of this special interest group, recently wrote an editorial attacking me for the work I've done to help make Jessica's Law a reality in California. She claims that Jessica's Law is "misguided public policy," and that we are "feeding the public misinformation." She claims that Jessica's Law won't protect our children, but rather "will have the opposite effect."

Niki attempts to convince readers that sex offenders aren't really a problem in our society. That "sex offenders repeat their crimes less often than spousal abusers and child batterers," and the public is being "fooled" and "frightened" by half truths by elected officials such as myself.

I don't need to convince you of the dangers sex offenders are to our communities. You don't need to be educated as to what these predators can do to the lives of your family members, your children. You know the answers. Just turn on the news, read a paper, listen to the radio. These offenders are being arrested and convicted on a routine basis for the destructive crimes they commit. Such stories are not half-truths.

I support Jessica's Law because it will give California one of the most comprehensive sex offender laws in the nation. I support Jessica's Law because it will keep these deviants in jail longer for the crimes they commit, and force them to wear GPS devices so they will be monitored for life.

For those who tend to agree with Niki that residency restrictions combined with GPS technology won't afford increased protection for our children, tell that to Mark Lunsford the father of Jessica for whom this law is named. While her rapist killer was on GPS he was on his best behavior. Within weeks after its removal he started to revert back to his criminal behavior. Mr. Lunsford supports this new law because it would have saved the life of his daughter.

Rather than wait until November for the voters to pass a law, I'd ask the question of why we can't be proactive now to protect the weakest and most vulnerable in our society? After all, isn't that what we expect government and elected officials to do? We must act now and lead!

I believe in protecting our children. They are my special interest group. And I do whatever it takes to afford them the opportunity to become healthy adults.

Research performed by the Federal Bureau of Prisons, reveals that convicted child molesters, by their own admission, sexually assault, on average, 35 additional children which goes unreported.

I disagree with most special interest groups, but especially those who represent a destructive force such as sex offenders. Their statements fall on deaf ears. I care more about the rights of our children than I do the so-called rights of the offenders.

I do agree with one of Niki's statements. In her opening paragraph she states, "Apparently Fourth District County Supervisor Gary Ovitt wants to enter a national contest and make San Bernardino County the county with the toughest sexual offender regulations."

Absolutely!